

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 through 4 and 10 through 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable. Claims 1 through 4 and 10 through 19 have been cancelled.

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5 through 9 would be allowable, but they are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 5 has been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim, and claims 5 through 9 are therefore in allowable format.

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 through 9 are patentable, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (253)853-1698 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 31st day of December, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that this Response to Office Action is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 31st day of December, 2002.



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